

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN:RSDRISCOLL:JLP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166424

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CI

SUBJECT: SPARES FOR THE CHILEAN NAVY

1. CHILEAN CHARGE TOMAS AMENABAR, AND NAVAL ATTACHE ADMIRAL RONALD MCINTYRE CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN JUNE 29. AMENABAR SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD INSTRUCTED MCINTYRE TO MAKE A PLEA FOR SPARE PARTS FOR THE CHILEAN NAVY.

2. MCINTYRE PLEADED THAT SPARES WERE VERY IMPORTANT TO THE NAVY BECAUSE 70-75 PERCENT OF ITS SHIPS ARE OF U.S. MANUFACTURE. THE SHIPS ARE OLD AND REQUIRE CONSTANT MAINTENANCE TO REMAIN OPERATIONAL. THE NAVY'S SHARE OF THE \$6 MILLION SPARE PARTS PACKAGE WOULD HAVE, ACCORDING TO MCINTYRE, MET NO MORE THAN MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS. IF THE NAVY HAD HAD ITS WAY, THE PACKAGE WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH LARGER. IN ADDITION TO ITS DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES, THE NAVY SUPPORTS AN EXTENSIVE ANTARTIC PROGRAM AND SERVES AS THE COUNTRY'S COAST GUARD. IT SUPPORTS THE UNITAS EXERCISE AND HAS CONTINENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES. YET THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS DOES NOT TAKE THESE OTHER FUNCTIONS INTO

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CONSIDERATION. WITHOUT ADEQUATE SPARES, THE NAVY WILL BE

HARD PRESSED INDEED TO CARRY OUT ITS VARIOUS MISSIONS AND, WITHOUT THE SPARES, THE PERUVIAN THREAT BECOMES EVEN MORE OMINOUS.

3. SHLAUDEMAN REPLIED THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM AND WERE SYMPATHETIC. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT CHILE HAS A VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN THE CONGRESS. WE HAD BEEN UNCERTAIN UP TO THE LAST MINUTE AS TO WHETHER ANY MILITARY SHIPMENTS AT ALL WOULD BE PERMITTED UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION. IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT THE PIPELINE COULD BE PRESERVED AND ADD-ON SPARES FOR THE AIRCRAFT PROVIDED. SHLAUDEMAN NOTED INDICATIONS THAT THE GOC WAS MAKING PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CHILE BEFORE LONG WILL BE ABLE TO CONVEY THE KIND OF PEACEFUL AND PROGRESSIVE IMAGE REQUIRED TO RESOLVE ITS PROBLEMS HERE.

4. MCINTYRE ASKED IN CLOSING IF WE SAW ANY CHANCE FOR A CHANGE IN THE NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION DURING THE YEAR AHEAD. SHLAUDEMAN SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT BUT THAT THE PROSPECTS DID NOT APPEAR GOOD. HE URGED AGAIN THAT THE GOC GIVE THE MOST SERIOUS ATTENTION TO ITS PROBLEMS HERE AND ELSEWHERE INTERNATIONALLY SO AS TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPINION.

5. COMMENT: MCINTYRE'S DEMARCHE SEEMED MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE TO THE CHILEANS THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS THIS LEGISLATION CREATES FOR THEM, BUT THAT THE PRESERVATION OF THE PIPELINE AND THE FORTHCOMING DELIVERY OF THE F-5'S CAN BE REGARDED AS A CONSIDERABLY BETTER RESULT THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED IN VIEW OF CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES. KISSINGER

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